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UNCLAS ANKARA 001583

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TURKEY'S CANDIDATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

REF: A. ANKARA 1385

[1](#)B. USUN NEW YORK 292

[1](#)1. Summary. The GOT is pressing the candidacy of Dr. Sevil Atasoy to the International Narcotics Control Board. Post requests guidance. End summary.

[1](#)2. On 12 March, Econoff attended a presentation at the MFA, at which Dr. Sevil Atasoy, Turkey's nominee to the International Narcotics Control Board, was introduced to Ankara-based diplomats. Board elections will be held May 4-5.

[1](#)3. Most of the presentation was devoted to Dr. Atasoy's qualifications (previously pouched to the Department). Additional points made at the presentation were:

-- Currently, the Board is composed of one woman, who will be retiring, and twelve men. Eighteen candidates are competing for five positions, only three of which candidates are women.
-- Dr. Atasoy is the only forensic scientist among any of the current or prospective Board members.

[1](#)4. Post also notes Dr. Atasoy's ties to the U.S., as a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at Emory University, and as a guest scientist at the University of California and with the USDOJ.

[1](#)5. While Post defers to the Department in assessing Dr. Atasoy's qualifications, the GOT is clearly pushing her candidacy very hard. Accordingly, Post repeats the request contained in Reftel A for guidance on how to respond to GOT's diplomatic note requesting support for Dr. Atasoy's candidacy.
EDELMAN